

Statement from Mayor Rudy Fernandez and Deputy Mayor Shawn R. Klein, Township of Livingston, in Essex County.

BPU Public Hearing for Energy Storage & Electric Vehicle

Docket Number EO18101111

Thank you and good evening. I'm Rudy Fernandez Jr., mayor of Township of Livingston in Essex County, and I'm joined by deputy mayor Shawn Klein, and I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of PSE&G's Electric Vehicle proposal.

In Livingston, we have long been committed to fostering the increased adoption of electric vehicles and needed infrastructure. In 2018 and 2019 the Livingston Town Council adopted resolutions expressing this commitment, we have installed electric vehicle charging stations at our Town Hall, and just last week signed a letter supporting New Jersey's participation in the multistate Transportation and Climate Initiative.

New Jersey is behind the curve when it comes to adopting electric vehicles, and for such a heavily trafficked state, that's problem. It puts us behind in our efforts to fight climate change, improve public health and position the state as a clean energy leader.

PSE&G wants to deploy nearly 40,000 electric vehicle chargers in diverse communities across the state. That would mean public charging stations at multifamily buildings, businesses, fleet facilities, municipal facilities, retail establishments and hotels/motels, and fast chargers along corridor locations like the Parkway and Turnpike.

More charging stations will encourage more people to switch to clean-running electric vehicles once they know they can charge conveniently, and that will prompt private companies to add even more public charging equipment. It's a good example of a public/private partnership to fill a need the private market has to this point been reluctant to meet.

PSE&G, like other states that were early adopters of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, will also offer rebates to customers who want charging equipment in their home. Those states, such as Colorado and Oregon, are already seeing the benefits of cleaner air and broad access to electric vehicle charging across economic groups.

The proposal will create jobs, help New Jersey meet its electric vehicle goals, and help position the state as a national clean energy leader.

Livingston does its best to be a green community and we encourage developers and commercial property owners to include electric vehicle charging stations at their sites. New Jersey should be a leader in these technologies and we fully support PSE&G's efforts to help the state succeed.

Rudy Fernandez, Jr.
Mayor, Twp. of Livingston

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Deputy Mayor, Twp. of Livingston